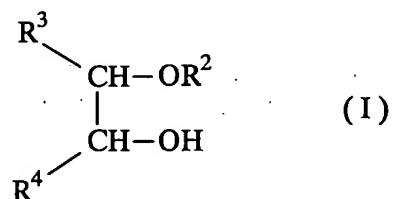


CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A surfactant composition comprising a diol derivative (hereinafter referred to as "component (A)" represented by the formula (I) and a at least one anionic surfactant (hereinafter referred to as "component (B)"): :

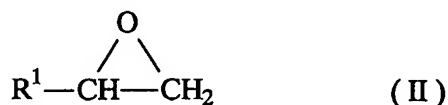


wherein one of  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  is a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkenyl group having 4 to 22 carbon atoms and the other is a hydrogen atom and  $\text{R}^2$  is ~~a straight chain or branched alkyl or alkenyl group having 1 to 18 carbons~~ methyl or ethyl.

2. (Currently Amended) The surfactant composition according to Claim 1, wherein the component (A) is a diol derivative-containing composition obtained in a production method comprising a step (1) and a step (2):

step 1: a step of supplying a 1,2-epoxyalkane (hereinafter referred to as "1,2-epoxyalkane (II)") represented by the formula (II) and an alcohol (hereinafter

referred to as "alcohol (III)") represented by the formula (III) in the following molar ratio: 1,2-epoxyalkane (II)/alcohol(III) = 1/1 to 1/20 to react both with each other in the presence of an acid catalyst:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkenyl group having 4 to 22 carbon atoms;



wherein R<sup>2</sup> represents ~~a straight chain or branched~~ an alkyl ~~or~~ alkenyl group having 1 or 2 ~~to 18~~ carbon atoms: and

step 2: a step of removing an unreacted alcohol (III) from the reaction product obtained in the step 1 to obtain a composition comprising the diol derivative represented by the formula (I).

3. (Cancelled)

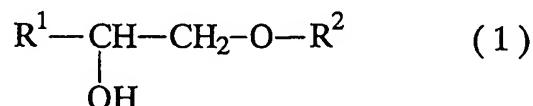
4. (Currently Amended) The surfactant composition according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the component (B) further comprises ~~at least one anionic surfactant and~~ at least one surfactant selected from a betaine surfactant and a nonionic surfactant.

5. (Currently Amended) The surfactant composition according to any one of Claims 1, 2 or 4 ~~to 4~~, wherein the ratio by weight of the component (A) to the component (B), namely (A)/(B), is 1/100 to 50/50.

6. (Currently Amended) A hair detergent comprising ~~use of~~ the surfactant composition as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5 as hair detergent.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A body detergent comprising ~~use of~~ the surfactant composition as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5 as body detergent.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The surfactant composition according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the component (A) is a compound represented by the formula (1):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkenyl group having 6 to 21 carbon atoms and R<sup>2</sup> is ~~a straight-chain or branched~~ an alkyl ~~or alkenyl~~ group having 1 or 2 ~~to 18~~ carbon atoms.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The surfactant composition according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the alkyl or alkenyl group of  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  has 6 to 12 carbon atoms ~~and  $R^2$  is an alkyl or alkenyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms.~~

11. (Original) The surfactant composition according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the content of the component (A) in the composition is 0.5 to 5% by weight.

12. (Currently Amended) The surfactant composition according to Claim 1 3, wherein the content of the component (A) is 3 to 30% by weight based on the anionic surfactant.

13. (Original) The surfactant composition according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the component (A) comprises a component having a higher molecular weight than the diol derivative (I) including a dimer of the 1,2-epoxyalkane (II).

14. (Currently Amended) A body or hair detergent comprising ~~use of the~~ component (A) as described in Claim 1 or 2 ~~as body or hair detergent.~~